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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 5 July 2007 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a note verbale dated 6 July 2007 (see annex) that has been sent by the United States Mission to the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations as a response to the note verbale from the latter dated 13 June 2007 (A/AC.154/375). I request that you circulate the attached diplomatic note as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Russell **Graham**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

07-42387 (E) 170707

Annex to the note verbale dated 5 July 2007 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and, in reference to the latter's note of 13 June 2007, wishes to clarify the nature of travel restrictions imposed on certain members of the United Nations diplomatic community, including the members of the Permanent Mission of Cuba.

Representatives of United Nations Member States are provided entry into the United States for the purpose of conducting official United Nations business. Representatives of those United Nations Member States who are subject to travel restrictions are not impeded from travel for the purpose of conducting official United Nations business. However, the United States does not have a legal obligation to approve travel outside the 25-mile limit from Columbus Circle for members of the Cuban Mission for personal reasons or for events that are not official United Nations meetings. As the meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Crime of Aggression to which the Cuban note verbale refers was not an official United Nations meeting, the United States was not legally obligated to permit attendance and chose not to extend this courtesy.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.